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ABSTRACT

Developed as part of the Arkansas Minimum Performance Testing Program (MPT), these item specifications relate to the third grade language arts minimum performance test. There is one item specification for each instructional objective included in the MPT. Item specifications are intended to provide an overview of the general content and format of test items used to measure an instructional objective. Each item specification contains the following information: objective identification number; grade level; subject area; goal identification; skill description; stimulus attributes (information about the test item); response attributes (information about the correct answer and about possible incorrect answers); and sample items. Item specifications may be used in a variety of ways--for example, teachers may use them to develop evaluation instruments, to inform parents about the test, or to familiarize students with what to expect on the MPT. (SR)

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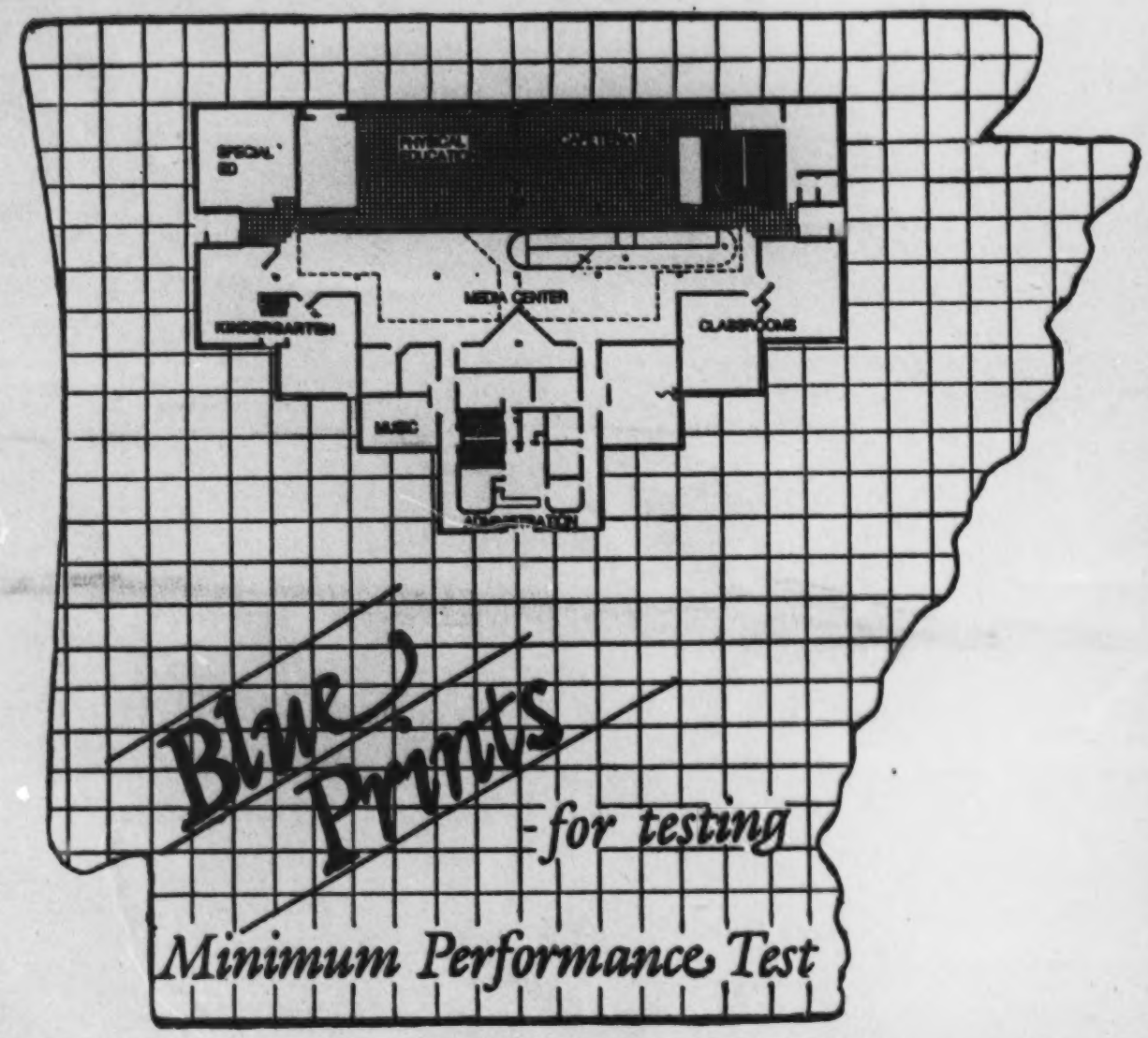

Item Specifications

CS413337

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Language Arts
Grade 3

INTRODUCTION

These Item Specifications were developed by the Department of Education as part of the Arkansas Minimum Performance Testing Program (MPT). There is one Item Specification for each instructional objective included in the MPT. While all objectives are not necessarily tested every year, every objective included here may appear in the MPT.

The purpose of an Item Specification is to provide an overview of the general content and format of test items used to measure an instructional objective. Specifically, each Item Specification contains the following information:

* *Objective Identification Number*
* *Grade Level*
* *Subject Area*
* *Goal Identification*
* *Skill Description*
* *Stimulus Attributes (Format, Content, Directions)*
* *Response Attributes (Format, Content, Directions)*
* *Sample Item(s)*

The first five elements listed above are consistently labeled and defined to correspond with the Teachers' Guide and MPT materials. The Stimulus Attributes section contains information about the item stem (the question of incomplete statement that makes up the test question). Similarly, the Response Attributes section contains information about the correct answer and about possible incorrect answers. The Sample Item section provides examples of a test item or items which are similar to the items which may appear on the MPT.

These Item Specifications may be used in a variety of ways. Teachers may use them to guide them in the development of information evaluation instruments to determine whether or not students have mastered specific objectives. Teachers may also use these Item Specifications to inform parents about what their children will experience when they take the MPT. Teachers may also use these Item Specifications to familiarize students with what to expect on the MPT.

School administrators may used these Item Specifications when they communicate to the public about the MPT. The sample items may be useful in illustrating what mastery of an objective means.

It is important to understand that use of these Item Specifications does not in any way invalidate the MPT. None of the test items on these Item Specifications have appeared or will ever appear on the MPT. Using these Item Specifications in the classroom or as part of the instructional process is **NOT** teaching the test!

OBJECTIVE: 1.1

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: CAPITALIZATION**

SKILL: Recognize that days of the week, months of the year, and holidays are capitalized.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbered sentences in a box followed by a direct question such as: Which sentence needs a capital letter?

Type 2 a boxed sentence with four underlined words preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

B. Content

Types 1 and 2

a. a day of the week, month of the year or holiday needing a capital letter

b. first or second grade vocabulary

c. sentence(s) limited to 15 words

C. Directions

Type 1 Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

Type 2 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to lines listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Type 2 four words listed vertically as they appear in the stimulus sentence

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the line with a word needing a capital letter
distractors: numbers of lines with correct capitalization

Type 2 correct response: the day of the week, month of the year, or holiday needing a capital letter
distractors: words or names capitalized correctly or words not needing capitalization

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SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1 Tom lives in Dallas, Texas.
2 My birthday is March 2, 1977.
3 Mrs. Rogers lives on Elm Street.
4 christmas is always in December.

1. Which sentence needs a capital letter?

A 1
B 2
C 3
***D** 4

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

2. In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

,John and his sister came to visit on christmas day.

A John
B sister
*** C** christmas
D day

OBJECTIVE: 1.2

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: CAPITALIZATION**

SKILL: Recognize that names of cities, towns, states, and countries are capitalized.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbered sentences in a box followed by a direct question such as: Which sentence needs a capital letter?

Type 2 a boxed sentence with four underlined words preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

B. Content

Types 1 and 2
a. the name of a city, town, state, or country needing a capital letter
b. first or second grade vocabulary
c. sentence(s) limited to 15 words

C. Directions

Type 1 Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

Type 2 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to sentences listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Type 2 four names or words listed vertically as they appear in the stimulus sentence

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the sentence with a word needing a capital letter
distractors: numbers of sentences with correct capitalization

Type 2 correct response: the name of a city, town, state, or country needing a capital letter
distractors: words or names capitalized correctly or words not needing capitalization

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SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1 Tom lives in Dallas, texas.
2 My birthday is March 2, 1977.
3 Mrs. Rogers lives on Elm Street.
4 Christmas is always in December.

1. Which line needs a capital letter?

•A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

2. In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

John Jones plans to visit canada next summer.

A John
B plans
•C canada
D summer

OBJECTIVE: 1.3

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: CAPITALIZATION**

SKILL: Recognize that names of streets, roads, and highways are capitalized.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbered sentences in a box followed by a direct question such as: Which sentence needs a capital letter?

Type 2 a boxed sentence with four underlined words preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

B. Content

Types 1 and 2
a. the name of a street, road, or highway needing a capital letter
b. first or second grade vocabulary
c. sentence(s) limited to 15 words

C. Directions

Type 1 Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

Type 2 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to sentences listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Type 2 four words listed vertically as they appear in the sentence

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the line with a word needing a capital letter
distractors: numbers of lines with correct capitalization

Type 2 correct response: the name of a street, road, or highway needing a capital letter
distractors: words or names capitalized correctly or words not needing capitalization

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SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1 Tom lives in Dallas, Texas.
2 My birthday is March 2, 1977.
3 Mrs. Rogers lives on elm Street.
4 Christmas is always in December.

1. Which sentence needs a capital letter?

A 4
***B** 3
C 2
D 1

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

2. In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

Jane and I like to play at the park on highway 10.

A Jane
B like
C park
*** D** highway

OBJECTIVE: 1.4

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: CAPITALIZATION**

SKILL: Recognize that initials and nicknames are capitalized.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbered sentences in a box followed by a direct question such as: Which sentence needs a capital letter?

Type 2 a boxed sentence with four underlined words, nicknames, or initials preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

B. Content

Types 1 and 2
a. an initial or nickname familiar to third grade students
b. first or second grade vocabulary
c. sentence(s) limited to 15 words

C. Directions

Type 1 Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

Type 2 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to sentences listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Type 2 four words, nicknames, or initials listed vertically as they appear in the sentence

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the sentence with an initial or nickname needing a capital letter
distractors: numbers of sentences with correct capitalization

Type 2 correct response: the initial or nickname needing a capital letter
distractors: words or names capitalized correctly or words not needing capitalization

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SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1 Tom lives in Dallas, Texas.
2 My birthday is March 2, 1977.
3 Dr. m. Rogers lives on Spruce.
4 Christmas is always in December.

1. Which line needs a capital letter?

A 4
* **B** 3
C 2
D 1

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

2. In the sentence below, which word needs a capital letter?

Boys and girls who play baseball know who babe Ruth was.

A girls
B play
C baseball
* **D** babe

OBJECTIVE: 2.1

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: PUNCTUATION**

SKILL: Recognize that a period comes after a telling sentence.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbered sentences in a box followed by a direct question such as: Which sentence needs a period?

Type 2 a boxed sentence preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which is CORRECT?

Type 3 a boxed incomplete sentence preceded by a direct question such as: Which CORRECTLY completes the sentence below?

B. Content

Types 1, 2, and 3
a. sentence(s) unpunctuated
b. first or second grade vocabulary
c. sentence(s) limited to 15 words

C. Directions

Type 1 Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

Types 2 and 3 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to sentences listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Types 2 and 3 the same word followed by different punctuation marks listed vertically four times

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the sentence needing a period
distractors: numbers of the sentences needing other ending punctuation

Types 2 and 3 correct response: the word followed by a period
distractors: the word followed by other punctuation marks

OBJECTIVE: 2.1 (cont.)

SAMPLE ITEM: ***Type 1***

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

> **1 Did Jack go to the library**
> **2 The store is near here**
> **3 Can we go too**
> **4 Was George along**

1. Which sentence needs a period?

A 1
*** B** 2
C 3
D 4

SAMPLE ITEM: ***Type 2***

In the sentence below, which is CORRECT?

> **Susan and Jack went to the library**

A library?
B library,
C library!
***D** library.

SAMPLE ITEM: ***Type 3***

3. Which CORRECTLY completes the sentence below?

> **We can go to the library _____**

A today!
*** B** today.
C today?
D today,

OBJECTIVE: 2.2

GRADE 6: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: PUNCTUATION**

SKILL: Recognize that a question mark comes at the end of a sentence that asks a question.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbered sentences in a box followed by a direct question such as: Which sentence needs a question mark?

Type 2 a boxed sentence preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which is CORRECT?

Type 3 a boxed incomplete sentence preceded by a direct question such as: Which CORRECTLY completes the sentence below?

B. Content

Types 1, 2, and 3
a. sentence(s) unpunctuated
b. first and second grade vocabulary
c. sentence(s) limited to 15 words

C. Content

Type 1 Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

Types 2 and 3 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to sentences listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Types 2 and 3 the same word followed by different punctuation marks listed vertically four times

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the sentence needing a question mark
distractors: numbers of sentences needing other ending punctuation

Types 2 and 3 correct response: the word followed by a question mark
distractors: the word followed by other punctuation marks

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1 Susan and Jack went to the library
2 The store is near here
3 Can we go, too
4 We sent George along

1. Which sentence needs a question mark?

A 1
B 2
***C** 3
D 4

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

Can we go to the library

2. Which is CORRECT?

***A** library?
B library!
C library,
D library.

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 3*

3. Which CORRECTLY completes the sentence below?

Can we go to the _____

A library.
B library,
C library!
***D** library?

OBJECTIVE: 2.3

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: PUNCTUATION**

SKILL: Recognize that a comma separates the date from the year.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format boxed sentences with numbered lines followed by a direct question such as: Which line needs a comma?

B. Content
1. first or second grade vocabulary
2. maximum of four sentences
3. sentences limited to 15 words

C. Directions Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format four numbers corresponding to lines listed vertically in ascending or descending order

B. Options correct response: the number of the line with a date needing a comma
distractors: numbers of lines with correct punctuation

SAMPLE ITEM:

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1	The baby was born on December 23 1980.
2	Mary ran five miles on April 2.
3	The firemen went on strike in Chicago,
4	Illinois, on July 10.

1. Which line needs a comma?

***A** 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

OBJECTIVE: 2.4

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: PUNCTUATION**

SKILL: Recognize that a comma separates the city from the state.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format boxed sentences with numbered lines followed by a direct question such as: Which line needs a comma?

B. Content
1. first or second grade vocabulary
2. maximum of four sentences
3. sentences limited to 15 words

C. Directions Read the sentences below; then answer question ( ).

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format four numbers corresponding to lines listed vertically in ascending or descending order

B. Options correct response: the number of the line with the name of a city needing a comma to separate it from the state
distractors: numbers of lines with correct punctuation

SAMPLE ITEM:

Read the sentences below; then answer question 1.

1	The baby was born December 23, 1980.
2	Mary ran five miles on April 2, 1984.
3	The firemen went on strike in Chicago
4	Illinois, on July 10, 1980.

1. Which line needs a comma?

A 1
B 2
***C** 3
D 4

OBJECTIVE: 2.5

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: PUNCTUATION**

SKILL: Recognize that a comma comes after the salutation and closing of a friendly letter.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 a boxed friendly letter with numbered lines followed by a direct question such as: Which line needs a comma?

Type 2 a direct question such as: Which is CORRECT?

B. Content

Type 1
a. letter limited to four sentences
b. first or second grade vocabulary
c. sentences limited to 15 words

Type 2 salutation or closing familiar to second grade students

C. Directions

Type 1 Read the letter below; then answer question ( ).

Type 2 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four numbers corresponding to lines listed vertically in ascending or descending order

Type 2 the same four friendly letter salutations or closings listed vertically

B. Options

Type 1 correct response: the number of the line with a salutation or closing needing a comma
distractors: numbers of lines with correct punctuation

Type 2 correct response: the salutation or closing punctuated correctly with a comma
distractors: salutations or closings followed by other punctuation or no punctuation

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SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

Read the letter below; then answer question 1.

1 Dear Tom,

2 I'm sorry you could not come with
3 us to the World's Fair.

4 We had fun on the rides.

5 There were so many things to see
6 and do.

7 Your friend

8 Scott

1. Which line needs a comma?

A 5
B 6
•C 7
D 8

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

2. Which is CORRECT?

A Your friend
• B Your friend,
C Your friend:
D Your friend!

OBJECTIVE: 2.6

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: PUNCTUATION**

SKILL: Recognize that a colon comes between the hour and the minutes when writing time.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format a direct question such as: Which is the correct way to write time? or Which is the CORRECT way to write (30 minutes past two, etc.)?

B. Content N/A

C. Directions N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format the same hour and minutes with different punctuation marks listed vertically four times

B. Options correct response: the hour and minutes, containing a colon
distractors: the hour and minutes with other punctuation marks

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SAMPLE ITEM:

1. Which is the CORRECT way to write 30 minutes past two?

A 2; 30
***B** 2: 30
C 2, 30
D 2. 30

OBJECTIVE: 3.1

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: USAGE**

SKILL: Identify a common noun as a word used to name a person, place, or thing.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format a boxed simple sentence with four underlined words preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which underlined word is a noun?

B. Content
1. first or second grade vocabulary
2. sentence limited to 15 words

C. Directions N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format four words listed vertically as they appear in the sentence

B. Options correct response: a noun from the stimulus sentence
distractors: other words from the stimulus sentence

SAMPLE ITEM:

1. In the sentence below, which underlined word is a noun?

The little boy broke his arm.

A The
***B** boy
C broke
D his

OBJECTIVE: 3.2

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: USAGE**

SKILL: Identify a proper noun as a word used to name a particular person, place, or thing.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format a boxed simple sentence preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which word is a proper noun?

B. Content
1. first or second grade vocabulary
2. sentence limited to 15 words

C. Directions N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format four words listed vertically as they appear in the sentence

B. Options correct response: the proper noun from the stimulus sentence
distractors: other words from the stimulus sentence

SAMPLE ITEM:

1. **In the sentence below, which word is a proper noun?**

We gave Mary a pretty dress.

A We
B gave
•**C** Mary
D dress

OBJECTIVE: 3.3

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: USAGE**

SKILL: Form the plurals of most nouns by adding s.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 a direct question such as: Which is a plural noun?

Type 2 a boxed singular noun preceded by a direct question such as: Which is the CORRECT plural of the word in the box?

B. Content

Type 1 N/A

Type 2 first or second grade vocabulary

C. Directions

Types 1 and 2 N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format

Type 1 four words listed vertically

Type 2 four spellings of the same noun listed vertically

B. Content

Type 1 first or second grade vocabulary

Type 2 N/A

C. Options

Type 1 correct response: the plural noun
distractors: other words ending in "s"

Type 2 correct response: the correct plural of the stimulus noun
distractors: other spellings of the stimulus noun ending in "s"

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 1*

1. Which is a plural noun?

A has
***B** towns
C circus
D yes

SAMPLE ITEM: *Type 2*

2. Which is the CORRECT plural of the word in the box.

monkey

***A** monkeys
B monkeyes
C monkies
D monkees

OBJECTIVE: 3.4

GRADE 3: LANGUAGE ARTS **GOAL: USAGE**

SKILL: Identify verbs as words that show action.

STIMULUS ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format a boxed simple sentence with four underlined words preceded by a direct question such as: In the sentence below, which word is a verb that shows action?

B. Content
1. first or second grade vocabulary
2. sentence limited to 15 words

C. Directions N/A

RESPONSE ATTRIBUTES:

A. Format four words listed verticlly as they appear in the sentence

B. Options correct response: the verb from the stimulus sentence that shows action.
distractors: other words from the stimulus sentence

SAMPLE ITEM:

1. **In the sentence below, which word is a verb that shows action?**

The baby crawled across the floor.

A baby
B floor
C across
*D crawled